Update on Iraq (August 2007 E-Newsletter)

The American people have made quite clear their desire to bring our troops home from Iraq, a position I have long advocated. In fact, I voted against sending them there in the first place! Democrats in Congress continue to push to bring the troops home, and I would like to bring you up to date on those actions.

In May, I voted with 170 of my colleagues to begin the immediate drawdown of U.S. troops; unfortunately, that vote failed. Fast forward to July 12 and the "Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act," H.R. 2956 . This bill would require a redeployment of troops out of Iraq within four months of enactment, with the majority of U.S. troops out by April 2008. This vote passed 223-201 in the House, but it is hung up in the Senate. Even more recently, the House voted on August 2 to require reasonable periods of rest and retraining between any redeployments.

Despite its own rhetoric and the recommendations of its own advisors, the Bush administration has not only "stayed the course" in Iraq, but increased the number of troops with what I believe is a flawed "surge" strategy, putting even more U.S. troops in harm's way.

I have made it perfectly clear that I favor withdrawal of our troops and an end to the bloodshed and waste of hundreds of billions of dollars. We must bring home our soldiers who are now caught in the middle of a civil war.

A long series of failed policies have made Iraq even more dangerous than it was before the war began, and that's embarrassing. It's time to bring our troops home.

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